



HARLOW CRANE WAS A MAN WHO LIVED WITHOUT RULES ... HE LIVED BY A LAW UNTO HIMSELF, UNTIL HE LEARNED THERE IS NO PLACE ON EARTH OR ELSEWHERE, FOR A ...







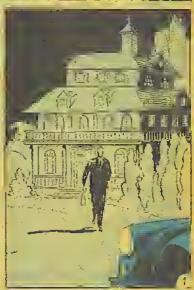
WO, YOU WON'T, IN EXACTLY
TWENTY MINUTES, YOU'LL NEED
YOUR HEART MEDICINE—
A'ID THERE'S NOBODY
JERE TO GIVE IT TO
YOU, ALL THE
SERVANTS ARE OFF,
REMEMBER?
HARLOW!
SURELY,
YOU'LL
UNTIE ME IA
I PROMISE...



PROMISES? COME NOW, TAYLOR.

I KNOW WHAT YOUR PROMISES

VE BEEN AROUND YOU TOO LONG.



Vol. 6 No. 2

Revember December, 1957

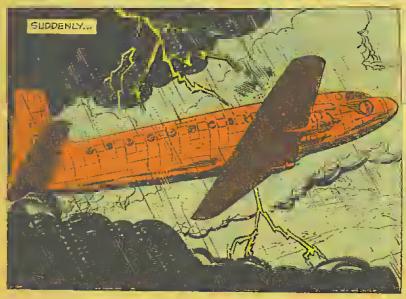
BLACK MAGIC is published by menthly by Headline Publications, Inc., 1790 Broadway, New York 19, N.Y. Single copy, 10g, Subscription; \$.60 (6 issues), Application for Second Class entry pending at the Post Office in Canton, Ohio under the Act of Match 3, 1879. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are fictitious. Entire contents c 1957 by Headline Publications, Inc. All rights sessived. Copyrighted under the Universal Copyright Convention and International Copyright Convention, Copyright reserved under the Pan American Copyright Convention, Printed in the U.S.A.









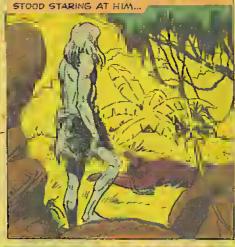




DOWN, DOWN, DOWN PLUMMETED



HE STUMBLED THROUGH THE MATTED TRAILS FOR HOURS UNTIL HE COLLAPSED... AND AS HE FELL, A SHADOWY FIGURE STEPPED FROM THE THINGS OF UNDERBRUSH AND STOOD STARWS AT HIM.





FOR DAYS, HARLOW HOVERED BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH... BUT
THE JUNGLE MAN'S CAREFUL NURSING BROUGHT HIM BACK
FROM THE BRINK, AND ONE DAY...

A FRIEND.
YOU ARE IN MY
RUT.
WHO ARE YOU?









I KILLED A MAN,
BACK IN THE STATES...
AND I RAN AWAY HERE.
THIS IS MY PUNISHMENT,
I NEED SOMEONE...
CAN¹T YOU UNDERSTAND
THAT?































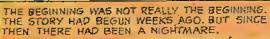












MARCH, IT-IT'S NO
USE, I CAN'T GO ON.
WE-WE'LL HAVE TO
TURN BACK.

HERE.











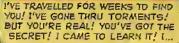




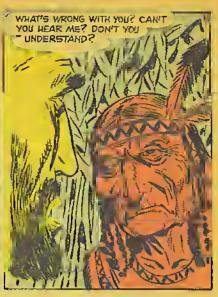
ONLY THE BIRDS AND THE CREEPING











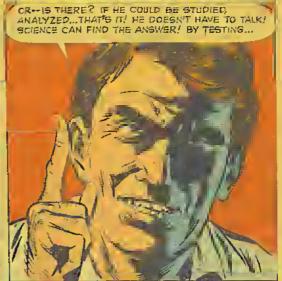




















YOU MEAN
YOU'RE NOT
GOING TO HAVE GOOD CARE.
TRY TO GOOD FOOD... NO,
I WILL NOT STOP YOU.
GO. AND.—I WISH
YOU WELL.

ALMOST, MARCH LAUGHED ALOUD! THE SECRET WAS HIS! THE LOVE OF A YOUNG MAN FOR HIS OLD BROTHER HAD MADE IT EASY! AND SO THE LONG JOURNEY BEGAN...



AT FIRST, THE MILES WERE NO PROB-LEM, BUT THE OLD MAN MOVED SLOW-LY PAINFULLY...

YOU'VE RESTED

EVERY MILE! WE'VE GOT

TO GO ON! WE'LL NEVER

MAKE IT AT THIS RATE! NEVER











THERE WAS A TIME, AT LAST, WHEN ONLY WILL POWER DROVE MARCH ON, AND YET, SOMEHOW, THAT WAS ENOUGH ...













OUT HERE IN THE BLACK WELL OF INFINITY IS YOUR WORLD, JUST AS YOU FIRST DREAMED ABOUT IT LONG AGO, BUT NOW THE DREAM IS OVER, SPACE IS FOR THE YOUNG, AND YOU'RE...

The OLD MAAN



AT FIRST, YOU DON'T WEEP, YOU RE-READ THE ORDER FOR THE HUNDRETH TIME AND THE TEARS ARE SCALDING BEHIND YOUR EYES, BUT, THE IRON OF DEFIANCE IS STILL IN YOU...



THEN YOU GO TO THE CONTROL ROOM AND YOUR CREW SNAPS TO ATTENTION, THE WAY THEY ALWAYS DO WHEN "THE OLD MAN" APPEARS.

I WAS JUST ON MY WAY TO YOUR QUARTERS, SIR. THIS CAME IN SECONDS AGO, FROM THE THANK YOU, MISTER' SHAW, STAND EASY.



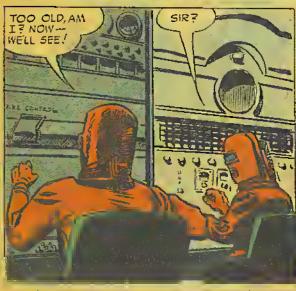


MERELY—MAINTAIN FORMATION.
THE WORDS ARE SO DRY... YOU
SPEAK THEM SO CALMLY. AND YET
IN YOUR MIND'S EYE, YOU CAN
SEE THAT FORMATION, THE BEAUTY
OF IT. THE DEADLY LOVELINESS...



YOU'RE A PART OF ALL THAT AND THEY SAY THAT YOU'RE TOO OLD! WELL — YOU'LL SHOW THEM...







YES! NOW - YOU'LL SHOW THEM. INSTRUMENTS DO THE CHECKING, THE COMPUTING, BUT INSTRUMENTS CANNOT THINK. IN THE END, IT IS YOUR ERAIN WHICH MUST MAKE THE FINAL DECISION.





IN THE END YOU ARE THE DECIDING FACTOR. AND YOU'VE DONE THIS SO MANY TIMES, YOU WAIT, SMILING BEHIND YOUR HELMET BUT—THE SMILE DIES.

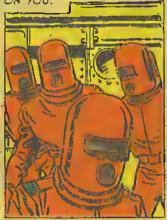


IT CAN'T HAPPEN! BUT IT DOES! YOU FIRE A HEART-BEAT TOO LATE, YOUR REFLEXES ARE A SPLIT SECOND TOO SLOW, BUT THE ENEMY COMMANDER'S





YOU'RE NOT BAPLY DAMAGED, THE ENEMY HITS AND RUNS. BUT NOW—YOU KNOW, AND THE MEN KNOW TOO. THEY CAN NO LONGER—DEPEND ON YOU.

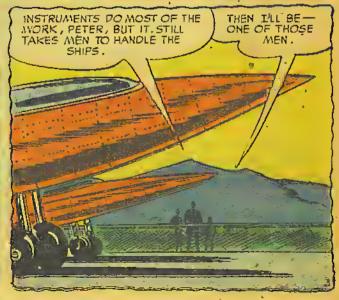


YOU SIT STIFFLY, AWAITING ORDERS FROM COMMAND, AND SOMEHOW YOU FIND YOURSELF THINKING BACK TO A DAY WHEN YOUR FATHER AND YOUR OLDER BROTHER TOOK YOU ON AN OUTING...



THE ROCKETS ARE FAST. SO FAST THAT ONLY CERTAIN MEN CAN FLY THEM. YOU HAVE TO BE YOUNG — AND QUICK. SO QUICK THAT YOU CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE





EVEN THEN YOU'D HAD THE DREAM, YOU WOULD BE ONE OF THOSE MEN, IT WAS JUST SOMETHING THAT HAD











50-IT ENDS, YOU LET SHAW TAKE OVER, BECAUSE YOU CAN SEE IT NOW, YOU ARE TOO OLD, YOU JUST STAND THERE, FEELING DRAINED, LIKE YOU FELY ON ANOTHER



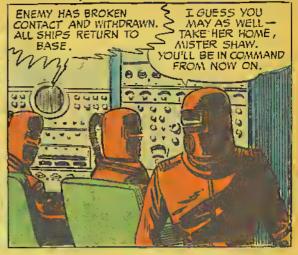
AH, THE SWEETNESS OF THAT DAY, YOUR FIRST SOLO, YOU'D FELT DRAINED AND AFRAID, AND THEN — ALL SPACE HAD BEEN OPENED BEFORE YOU...



HOW YOU'D LAUGH. WITH THE SHEER JOY OF IT. WHEN YOU WENT INTO BATTLE A FEW MONTHS LATER—WHEN THE SHIPS FROM OUTER SPACE APPEARED AND ATTACKED EARTH -- YOU AND YOUR



FIRST YOU'D BEEN A FIGHTER PILOT. THEN THEY'D GIVEN YOU COMMAND OF A DESTROYER. NOW YOU COMMAND A CRUISER. BUT TIME HAD ROBBED YOU.





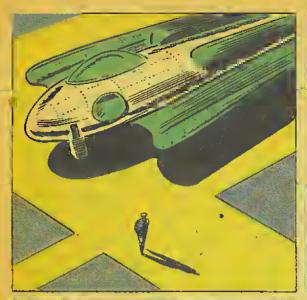






YOU SAY YOUR GOOD-BYES. YOU SHAKE EACH MAN'S HAND. THEN, THERE IS NO LONGER ANYTHING

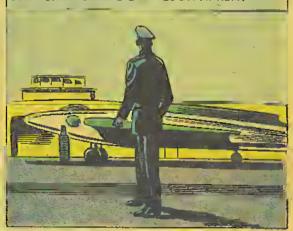




ALONE, YOU WALK ACROSS THE FIELD, AND YOU PAUSE ONLY ONCE. TO LOOK UP, YEARNINGLY...



ALMOST, YOU GIVE WAY TO YOUR EMOTIONS. BUT NOT YET. YOUR CREW CAN STILL SEE YOU FROM THE SHIP. 50 YOU WALK ON, AND THEN, AT LAST, YOU TURN. FOR ONE LAST LOOK AT HER.





THERE WAS SOMETHING UNCANNY AND AWESOME ABOUT THIS PLACE WHERE NO WHITE MAN HAD EVER SET FOOT, BUT EVEN MORE UNCANNY WAS THE ANSWER TO THE RIDDLE OF THE ...

Will By of the BUILTS











KENYON BURNS WITH AMBITION! HE AND TRACY GO ON. SO, WHAT CAN YOU DO, IN SPITE OF YOUR INSTINCT IVE PEAR?





THIS IS ANOTHER WORLD, A WORLD OF HEAT, AND SILENCE, THE HOURS ARE A TORMENT. THEN, SOME INSTINCT MAKES YOU LOOK UP...



















YOU STRAIN TO HEAR. BUT THERE ARE NO MORE WORDS, THERE IS ONLY THE WEIRD SENSATION OF BEING CARRIED THROUGH BLACKNESS...



YOU TRY TO SEE ... AND YOU ARE HUSTLED THROUGH THE DARKNESS WITH YOUR COMPANIONS ...



MOORE, I DIDN'T SEE THEM! AT LEAST, NOT CLEARLY. IT DIDN'T MAKE SENSE! WHAT I SAW DIDN'T NORMAL MEN!





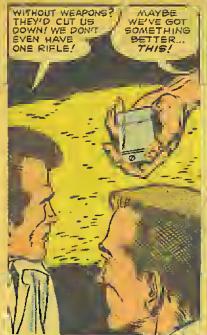
THEN WE FOUND WHAT WE CAME AFTER! WE'VE MADE THE SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY OF THE CENTURY! WE'VE GOT TO TALK TO THE NATIVES...

RO! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAID!

WE'RE TO BE
MILED! AT SUN'S RISE! I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT THAT'S WHAT THEY SAID!

THEY...



























THERE IS NO TIME TO EXPLAIN.
YOU HEAD BACK ALONG THE TRAIL,
TREMBLING IN EVERY NERVE, BUT
IT MUST BE DONE...



ONLY ONE CHANCE IS LEFT! YOU WAIT, AND AT LAST A NATIVE APPEARS! YOU SEE HIM...AND YOU GASP! BUT THERE IS NO TIME FOR WONDERING...



















